**Disinvestment of Government Equity in Salem Steel Plant**

3171. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :
SHRI GAYA SINGH :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to disinvest Government equity in Salem Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Since Salem Steel Plant (SSP) has been continuously incurring losses, Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has initiated the process of formation of a joint venture for SSP through which steel making and slab casting facilities can also be made available to it, so as to make SSP profitable.

Accordingly, a global tender inviting 'Expression of Interest' from experienced and competent companies had been issued.

**Projects in Steel Sector**

3172. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether nearly 20 projects being constructed at the cost of crores of rupees in steel sector are in various stages of implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) what factors are responsible for delay in the implementation of these projects ;

(d) whether Government have conducted any study regarding this situation ; and

(e) what steps Government proposed to take for rapid implementation of the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) According to the available information, presently there are 19 steel projects in the private/joint sector, sanctioned by the financial institutions for an aggregate capacity of approximately 13 million tonnes per annum involving a total investment of over Rs. 30,000 crores. The status of implementation/construction of these projects is as under :